



Florida House of Representatives

Democratic Office

Franklin Sands
Democratic Leader

Geraldine F. Thompson
Democratic Leader Pro Tempore

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2009

CONTACT: Mark Hollis
(850) 488-9622

House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands today issued the following statement regarding Governor Charlie Crist's budget vetoes:

"This is a small victory for those of us in the House Democratic Caucus who warned of the long-term negative consequences of Republican legislators' short-sighted budget fixes.

"Governor Charlie Crist's decision to restore a fraction of the more than \$1-billion in Republican spending cuts to schools, health care and other state priorities offers a glimmer of hope that he's willing to override some of the harsh tactics of Republican budget writers.

"In exercising his veto pen today, the governor has agreed with **Representative Joe Gibbons** who voiced concerns during House floor debate about Republican plans to slash the Visit Florida tourism-promotion program.

"I applaud him for following the lead of **Representatives Perry Thurston, Daryl Rouson** and other **House Democrats** who opposed Republican proposals to cut funding for substance abuse prevention, education and treatment programs.

"Similarly, the governor appears to recognize the concerns of **Representative Ron Saunders** and others who saw the short-sighted strategies of Republicans in

regards to the Florida Forever land conservation program.

“And he is following some of the advice of **Representatives Kelly Skidmore, Mary Brandenburg, and Martin Kiar** in paring back some of the onerous Republican cuts to education and health care.

“But while the governor has modestly reduced the potential budget pain to our teachers and other Floridians, we are reminded that the massive budget cuts by the Republicans that remain will add only more injury to many Floridians suffering under failed economic policies.

“I encourage the governor to continue working with the House Democratic Caucus in setting new priorities for the state and beginning Florida on a road to economic recovery.”

###